

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-10 ITF-05 OPR-02 SCA-01 /081 W

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R 011203Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9823

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSIN USUN

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6069

E.O. 11652 XGDS 1

TAGS: PFOR UR CB

SUBJ: FRENCH AMBASSDOR ON CAMBODIA

REF: MOSCOW 5834

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION, WHILE PARTLY OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS, IS
PASSED

ON FOR WHATEVER USE IT MAY BE. FRENCH AMBASSADOR VIMONT TOLD
US APRIL 30 THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE
EVACUATION OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH. TH FRENCH
HAVE APPROACHED SIHANOUK AND PENN NOUTH IN PEKING, AND HAVE
ALSO MADE DEMARCHES IN SOFIA AND BERLIN, WITH REGARD TO THOSE
SHELTERED IN THE EMBASSY. (VIMONT THOUGHT THAT SOME EAST
GERMANS WERE BEING SHELTERED IN PHNOM PENH ALONG WITH THE
SEVEN SOVIETS, REFTEL.) VIMONT THOUGHT THAT THE SOVIETS HAD
ALSO MADE APPROACHES IN PEKING (HE DID NOT SAY WHETHER WITH THE
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PRC OR WITH SIHANOUK).

2. THE PHNOM PENH EMBASSY, SAID VIMONT, HAS BEEN IN THE CHARGE OF A FRENCH VICE CONSUL, WHOSE ONLY CONTACT HAS BEEN WITH THE INSURGENT SOLDIERS SURROUNDING THE EMBASSY. HE HAS HAD NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE NEW AUTHORITIES. THE EMBASSY'S COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD CEASED LAST SATURDAY, SAID VIMONT.

3. STRESSING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY, VIMONT SAID THAT THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA SEEMED STRANGE. SIHANOUK AND PENN NOUTH SEEMED TO BE SEEKING EXCUSES TO STAY IN PEKING. FIRST IT WAS THE ILLNESS OF SIHANOUK'S MOTHER, THEN HER FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS. MEANWHILE, KHIEU SAMPHAN WAS APPARENTLY IN EFFECTIVE CONTROL IN PHNOM PENH.

4. VIMONT, AGAIN SPEAKING PERSONALLY, SAID THAT HE EXPECTED HANOI TO MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO BRING ALL OF INDOCHINA UNDER ITS SWAY. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE THOUGHT THE SITUATION IN LAOS WAS ESPECIALLY PRECARIOUS.
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